

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09  
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NEA-10 EA-10  
SAS-02 /165 W

-----046843 030828Z/10

R 021347Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5610  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ENRG, OECD  
SUBJECT: BENN COMMENTS ON IEA

REF: LONDON 11693

1. MISSION HAS DISCUSSED REMARKS MADE BY UK ENERGY SECRETARY BENN AT JULY 18 LONDON ENERGY SEMINAR WITH IEA DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WALLY HOPKINS, WHO ALSO ATTENDED THIS EVENT. HOPKINS READS BENN'S COMMENTS AS BEING MUCH LESS NEGATIVE TOWARD IEA THAN IMPLIED BY REFTEL.

2. ACCORDING TO HOPKINS, BENN DID STATE THAT AT THE TIME OF ITS CREATION THE IEA WAS REGARDED BY SOME AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR CONFRONTATION, WHICH HE REGARDED AS BEING MUCH LESS NEGATIVE TOWARD IEA THAN IMPLIED BY REFTEL.

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DED AS UNDERSTANDABLE IN VIEW OF "SOME OF THE SPEECHES DR. KISSINGER WAS MAKING AT THAT TIME". MR. BENN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE FRENCH, "BEING BRILLIANT DIPLOMATS" QUITE UNDERSTANDABLY SAW THE DANGERS OF THIS SITUATION AND DECIDED TO STAY OUT AND TO PURSUE THE PRODUCER-CONSUMER DIALOGUE THROUGHT THE CIEC, WHICH MR. BENN DESCRIBED AS A "CONCILIATORY APPROACH".

3. BENN MADE IT VERY CLEAR IN SUBSEQUENT REMARKS, HOWEVER, THAT HIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE IEA TO BE A USEFUL METHOD OF COOPERATION ON ENERGY MATTERS, WHICH HAD LED TO ITS MEMBERS "TAKING ENERGY MORE SERIOUSLY", AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS PARTICIPATED FULLY IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE IEA AND INTENDS TO CONTINUE DOING SO.

4. HOPKINS REPORTS THAT BENN SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE NECESSARY TO ENLARGE THE AMBIT OF ENERGY COOPERATION BEYOND THE PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE IEA, AND ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT A WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE MIGHT BE A USEFUL MEANS OF ACHIEVING THIS. BENN POINTED OUT THAT AT SOME POINT THE EASTERN COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE ENERGY DIALOGUE IN VIEW OF THEIR IMPORTANCE BOTH AS PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS OF ENERGY, MAKING REFERENCE TO THE REMARKABLY PARALLEL APPROACHES EVEN NOW BEING TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES AND USSR ON THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.

KATZ

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ENERGY, POLICIES, SPEECHES  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** ENRG, UK, OECD, IEA, (BENN, ANTHONY WEDGEWOOD)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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